

**Exford Parish Council**  
**Draft Minutes of Parish Council meeting**

**Held on: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm**

**Attendance:** Mike Ellicott, Kathryn Tucker, Jeremy Hickman, Derek Lloyd, Brian Martin, Judy Skinner, Cllr. Steven Pugsley, Cllr Frances Nicholson. Clerk: Jane Laycock.

**Members of Public:** Oliver Edwards, James Edwards, David Garbett-Edwards.

**Apologies for Absence:** Joan Atkins.

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**

Minutes were signed off as a true record (proposed DL and seconded BM)

**Matters Arising**

Actions from minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May:

1. Chibbet Drain. No response received to further letter to landowner. It was commented that the area is still flooding after heavy rain.  
**Action 1.** Clerk to contact County Highways.
2. Higher Mill Farm Lane/Rattle Row. See agenda item 'Highways' below.
3. Village Sound System. ME reported that this has now been purchased and Councillors had the opportunity of inspecting this after the meeting. The cost had been slightly higher than anticipated as additional leads had to be purchased. Purchase price was £499.48 (after negotiation) of which £83.24 is reclaimable VAT. The Village Flower Show had originally offered to contribute £100 towards the cost and JS agreed to approach the committee to confirm take up of their offer. DL also offered to approach Exford Melody Makers for a contribution. It was agreed that a hire charge of £25 per session should be made to other users to cover maintenance and repairs. The equipment will be looked after by Chris North and securely stored in the Memorial Hall.

**Highways**

**Higher Mill Farm Lane/Rattle Row**

Following discussion at the previous meeting, a letter was sent to CH regarding a possible width restriction on this road. CH responded that support for an initial Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be unlikely to be received from themselves or the police and recommended that an advisory restriction be put in place before any permanent measure is considered.

OE stated that the response from CH does not take into account the possible impact that a restriction would have on Westermill and the other businesses who need to use this road. He expressed concern that even an advisory notice may deter campervan drivers from accessing the campsite.

It was agreed that although the actual road width is just adequate for the maximum width of an HGV, especially now the hedge has been cut back, the standard of driving is often inadequate which leads to the damage.

KT asked D G-E if there had been any more incidents of damage to his property recently. D G-E responded that there had not, however his property has suffered a number of impacts over the years and he is of the opinion that an advisory would be the best solution to protect both his cottage and others. He has a sign which he can put up to warn of the overhanging guttering, however his concern is that it is frequently too late by the time a driver sees this.

ME stated that a site meeting should be arranged with CH and other interested parties to look at the problem and ask for their recommendation. This will then be put to the Parish Council in order that Councillors can decide if the recommendation should be supported.

**Action 2.** Clerk to contact CH to arrange meeting and advise potential attendees.

#### Muddicombe Lane

OE advised that he has been speaking to Jo Sharp (CH) regarding updating the existing width restriction sign to indicate that vehicles should go via Exford for access to Westermill and Wellshead.

#### Raised Path

ME reported that CH have now cut back along the raised path however this is inadequate as it is still inaccessible above the height of 3ft. DL provided photographic evidence of the overhanging vegetation. ME stated that he has checked the regulations and it is the responsibility of CH to maintain a designated footpath in useable condition. FN agreed to raise this with CH.

#### Speed Enforcement

Following the recent Speed Indicator System report for Church Hill which showed vehicles consistently exceeding the speed limit a letter has been sent to the Police Speed Enforcement Unit raising the safety concerns of local residents. ME has spoken to the police mobile unit on their recent visit. Nine vehicles were caught exceeding the 30mph limit within half an hour and further vehicles exceeding the 20mph limit, which is in place to protect the school. The police agree that there is a serious problem and are looking into increasing the frequency of their checks.

ME also asked FN to speak to CH regarding cutting back vegetation which may obscure speed limit signs.

**Action 3.** FN to follow up with CH regarding cutting back vegetation on raised path and speed signs.

JH reported that IDVerde are due to sweep the village on 26<sup>th</sup> July. He has asked people to move their vehicles to enable the sweep to be effective and also requested that IDVerde advise him of any that have not been moved.

DL reported that water is running off the fields and under the new hardcore which has been laid on the road up to Chibbet. This could be a skid risk especially in winter. JH agreed to take up with Highways.

### **Exford Top 5 Priorities**

ME reminded Councillors that the top 5 priorities that were agreed last time were:

1. To assess the need for more affordable housing in the village.
2. To keep our local primary school.
3. To retain our local shop and post office.
4. To assess the possibility of setting up allotments for the local community.
5. To provide small business units to encourage enterprise and growth in our community.

ME is attending a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July regarding a joint council survey of local housing need and will report back.

The school and shop/post office are still in place.

Allotments: the problem remains of finding a suitable site and also an assessment of current need.

Small business units: ME has had discussions with ENPA regarding siting 4-6 units adjoining the ENPA depot. FN stated that she very much supported this initiative and asked if they would be available to the wider community. ME confirmed that at least 2/3 would be taken up locally.

**Action 4.** Clerk to confirm top 5 priorities to WSDC.

### **Village Green/Play Area**

BM reported that the second independent inspection of the play equipment is due in August under the 3-year contract with Playdale. This should take place in week beginning August 21<sup>st</sup>. BM has given Playdale a list of 7 items that need fixing or replacing but these will be done at a later date once a quote has been received. The rubber chippings around the play equipment have become spread onto the grass and BM asked for volunteers among the Councillors to clear these up.

OE offered to assist with the work needed on the village green entrance. ME confirmed that CH have said that they can provide scalplings but timing of the work remains a problem as it is weather dependent and also the new surface will need time to bed in.

BM proposed that this is done in September. DL seconded. Agreed unanimously.

**Action 5.** ME to coordinate.

JH queried the recent issue of contactors from TDBC painting white lines on the village green on behalf of the school for their sports day. This was done twice, each time just before the green was mowed, despite ME advising the TDBC contactors. ME confirmed that he will speak to the school to let them know that Countrywide are happy to paint the lines as part of their mowing contract.

### **QE II Field**

BM reported that he has arranged a meeting with Kieran Reeves (ENPA Planning Officer) at 11am on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August to discuss a long-term solution for the shipping container. The proposed option is to enclose it in a wooden structure.

### **Finance**

The bank reconciliation for 25<sup>th</sup> July was produced showing current account funds available of £9862.52. £7588.60 is held in reserves. The toilet block maintenance account is £13521.43. List of cheques issued for payment 23/05/17-24/07/17 produced.

### **Planning**

KT reported on the following planning applications and decisions:

#### APPLICATIONS

##### Planning meeting 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017

6/13/17/108 Land at Higher Thorne, Exford. Proposed installation of water tank (2.3x2.12m) for provision of drinking water for grazing livestock. Retrospective.

Applicant explained that the installation was a result of a farm visit through Headwaters of the Exe Project. Application had been submitted due to the proximity of the tank to the road. All Councillors agreed to support the application and felt it was always useful when the applicant attended the planning meeting. ENPA approved 3/7/17.

6/13/17/109 Higher Thorne, Exford. Proposed track to previously approved agricultural building (6/13/16/112).

Applicant had assumed everything was agreeable from the pre-application however difficulties were encountered excavating into hard rock and trying to find a more level and safer access route for agricultural machinery to turn when using the building. Hence the track was re-routed.

Councillors supported the application as most of the track could not be seen from the road and was essential as access for the new agricultural building.

#### DECISIONS

6/13/17/107 Chibbet Post, Exford. Proposed stables/hay store to replace existing agricultural building (70sq m) (Full). ENPA approved 31/05/17.

6/13/17/105 Furzemoor Farm, Exford. Proposed agricultural building for livestock, fodder, machinery and manure storage (166.5 sq m) As per additional information dated 5/5/17 (Full). ENPA approved 6/6/17. 8. Where the development hereby approved ceases to be used for the purposes applied for within 10 years from the date of this permission.....the development must be removed unless the LPA has otherwise previously agreed in writing.

6/13/17/106 Furzemoor Farm, Exford. Proposed variation of condition 3 (Notwithstanding condition 9 of this notice the building hereby permitted shall not be used to housed livestock) of approved application 6/13/14/102 to allow the building to be used to house livestock. As per additional information dated 5/5/17. (Alteration/Lift Condition).

ENPA approved 6/6/17. 5. The agricultural building hereby permitted shall be removed from the site and the land reinstated to its former condition within 3 months, if within 10 years of substantial completion the building becomes redundant to agricultural use and the LPA have not previously granted planning permission for an alternative use.....

### **Clerk's Report**

List of email correspondence received to date provided.

### **Public Forum**

ME confirmed that we have signed up with Livesaver Technology Ltd to undertake the annual servicing of the defibrillator. At the recent service, it was suggested that we have an additional set of pads and also the possible provision of oxygen was discussed.

ME is also organising a general first aid course in the village. BM suggested that once a date is confirmed notices are put up to publicise the course.

**Action 6.** ME and Clerk to take forward.

DL mentioned that the British Heart Foundation are setting up a central database to record people who are registered to operate local defibrillators. This will be available to the 999 services. FN suggested that all parishes should support this when it is set up.

OE and JE raised the subject of the long-term problems they have been having in attempting to lift the existing B2 business use condition from the Old Carpentry Workshop in Chapel Street, which they own. SP offered to take this up on their behalf.

**Meeting closed 9.15 pm.**

### **ACTION POINT SUMMARY**

- 1. Chibbet Drain.** Clerk to contact CH.
- 2. Higher Mill Farm Lane/Rattle Row.** Clerk to arrange meeting with CH & attendees.
- 3. Cutting Back Vegetation (Raised Path/Speed Signs).** FN to follow up with CH.
- 4. Top 5 Priorities.** Clerk to confirm to WSDC.
- 5. Village Green Entrance.** ME to coordinate.
- 6. First Aid Course.** ME and Clerk to take forward.

**Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Exford Memorial Hall 7.30pm**

**FURTHER COPIES OF THESE MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT EXMOOR STORES AND ONLINE AT [www.exfordparishcouncil.org](http://www.exfordparishcouncil.org)**

